

Undersized, But Speedy

Appalachian State Sends a Message to the Big Boys

Mike Cranston
Associated Press

BOONE, N.C. (AP) – The black and gold T-shirts already on sale read: “Michigan Who? 34-32.” Appalachian State students and this mountain town’s residents on Sunday were still basking in the glory of the Mountaineers’ win over No. 5 Michigan a day earlier. Toilet paper still hung from trees. Area business congratulated the team on their display boards. At least two bars were advertising they were going to show a replay of the game Sunday night. And the rest of the nation was trying to figure out how so many speedy players ended up at this little-known school. “Hopefully the whole world knows that just because we’re called Division I-AA doesn’t mean we can’t play with the bigger school,” quarterback Armanti Edwards said during a first-time, day after news conference that drew about 20 reporters and several TV crews. “The only thing different is that they were bigger than us. That’s all it was.” Armanti, who was recruited by Clemson and several other big schools but only to play defensive back, is typical of coach Jerry Moore’s team: Small, quick and unappreciated during recruiting. “Just having a chip on our shoulder, going up there knowing we can play on their level, and show them why,” said receiver Dexter Jackson, recruited by Georgia and Clemson but told he wouldn’t play until he was an upperclassman. “Show them that just because you’re at that school doesn’t mean we can’t play with you.”

When you enter this town in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a sign greets you announcing the Mountaineers’ consecutive Division I-AA titles. Yet, all anyone talked about in restaurants and convenience stores Sunday was Michigan. “What we just did at Michigan, they’ve got to really, really bathe in it and enjoy and cherish the moment,” Moore said. “I’m not about to rob our staff, our school, our town and particularly these players, to enjoy what they just did.” The win, the first time a Football Championship Subdivision team – formerly I-AA – beat a team ranked in The Associated Press Top 25, left many wondering how were the Mountaineers so fast. Why weren’t these players recruited by the big boys of college football? Mostly because they were considered too small. And Moore, in his 19th season, was more than happy to snatch them up. “Size is probably our third factor to look at,” said Moore, whose players come mostly from the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee. “We want good kids that are tough kids that can run. We feel we can put weight on them, make them bigger, make them stronger.” Moore has used his fast, quick offensive and defensive lines and undersized, speedy receivers to dominate the second tier of Division I. The Mountaineers have won a nation-best 15 straight games overall and 27 consecutive home games. While college basketball sees its share of lower tier Division I teams beat the top dogs, it rarely happens in football. There is no equivalent to George Mason’s run to the Final Four in 2006.

“It’s a little more difficult finding 25 or 30 players, when you count special teams, than it is finding three (basketball players),” Moore said. “I think it’s a little more difficult to put a football team out there and compete with the big schools.” Very few thought Appalachian State had a chance against Michigan. The Mountaineers lost to North Carolina State, Kansas and LSU by a combined 83-18 the past two seasons. They also had 22 fewer scholarships than the Wolverines and used less than 40 players Saturday. However, Moore’s team of players the big schools didn’t want pulled it off. Safety Corey Lynch, who blocked Michigan’s game-winning field goal attempt on the final play, didn’t get one major scholarship offer. “I went to an evangelical Christian high school,” Lynch said. “So of course I can’t play with the big schools because I’m from a small school.” The sense of accomplishment was apparent all over town Sunday. It started at 7:30 a.m. when a crew picked up the goal post left in Chancellor Kenneth Peacock’s yard by fans a day earlier and brought it back to the stadium. It seemed like every other resident was wearing some sort of Appalachian State gear. Two fans talking at lunch marveled at how the Mountaineers were able to beat the taller, heavier and highly recruited Wolverines. Despite the outcome, the game obviously took its toll. There were many slow-moving players walking around the field house Sunday.

SEE “UPSET” PAGE 8

Uploading Mines

New CSM Website Underway

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

For nearly a decade, the website of the Colorado School of Mines has not experienced any major redevelopment. By this time next year, that fact will no longer be true. Marsha Williams, Director of Integrated Marketing Communications, and Derek Wilson, Director of Academic Computing and Networking and Chief Information Officer, have hired project manager Gina Boice to lead up the web redevelopment. A committee of Mines community members has also been assembled to assist in the guidance and direction of the redevelopment. On the committee are Julia Albertson (student representative), Sarah Andrews, Tom Boyd, Terry Bridgman, Mark Eberhart, Veronica Graves, Laura Guy, Jeff Dugan, Anita Pariseau, and Tony Petrella. In a memo sent out to the Mines community on May 21, 2007, Williams and Wilson said; “[Gina] will work closely with us, as well as with advisory committees, administrative and academic departments and divisions, vendors, technical staff and management.” According to the memo, Boice has “been a leader in organizations that develop commercial software and systems” and “has held positions as VP of Marketing/IT Systems, Director of Engineering, Director of Integration Platform Development, Senior Development Manager, Director of R&D Logistics and Manager of Internal Support.” In an interview, Williams said that the current website primarily serves Mines internally. The redevelopment, according to Williams, will now “push to market the university” to external audiences, in addition to continually serving

the needs of the internal community. Wilson said that the project would ultimately encompass two domain names to serve the two respective groups. The current “www.mines.edu” will be redeveloped to provide information and to “tell Mines’ story” to people outside the campus community. A second domain, with a name such as web.mines.edu, will provide “information needed by internal audiences and useful for some select external audiences.” Mines will continue hosting the portal site Trailhead, providing “restricted, password-protected information for internal audiences.” Williams stressed; “It’s very important for people to start thinking about the project encompassing three components.” Currently, the Committee has a website – webproject.mines.edu – that can be accessed from within the CSM network, or by using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) client from off-campus. The Committee’s site outlines nine key progress points: hiring a project manager, creating a steering committee, defining site goals, creating a functional specification, creating a Request for Proposal, submitting the Request for Proposal, hiring a web design company, approving final design, and launching the new web site. More information, such as meeting minutes, is available through the Committee’s website. The committee will report to the Mines community at major milestone points. Overall, Williams pointed out that the new website will be on par with other prestigious national engineering institutions and will incorporate a “clean, contemporary look.” According to Williams, the community can expect a progress update within the next few months.

Freshman Assaulted at University of Colorado

Former School Employee Arrested; Also Charged in Similar 2001 Attack

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

On the first day of classes at the University of Colorado at Boulder, a student was victim to a brutal attack. The attack occurred at 9:43 am in front of the University Memorial Center when suspect Kenton Drew Astin, age 39, exited his car and began yelling incoherently. The suspect then grabbed a male student and cut the student’s throat with a knife. A Boulder police officer and sheriff’s deputy soon arrived at the scene, ordering Astin to drop his weapon. Astin then began to stab himself with the knife before the officers used a Taser to subdue him. Both men were transported to Boulder Community Hospital. Boulder City Police bomb experts checked Astin’s backpack, and found no additional weapons.



Meave Hamm / Oredigger
The site of the attack on freshman Michael Knorps.

The victim was 17-year-old finance major Michael George Knorps, a freshman from Illinois. Knorps has since undergone surgery. Medical officials report that he is in good condition and may return to his classes. “We are thankful that Michael is safe and has been released into the loving arms of his family. He is a brave young man and, from my conversation with him, I am very impressed at how well he is handling this traumatic event,” said CU Chancellor G.P. “Bud” Peterson. Astin was identified as a former cashier at the university’s Alfred Packer Grill, and left the position in April 2007. In 2001, Astin was charged with larceny, 2nd degree assault, and Criminal intent to commit a 1st degree homicide, but was found not guilty due to reasons of insanity. Astin was referred to CU for employment by the Chinook Clubhouse networking program, a division of the

Boulder County Health Center that aids the recovery of men and women with mental illness. Because of the incident, the University will remain on a heightened state of alertness for this coming week. Officials have decided to conduct criminal background checks on all new employees, and review the status of their current employees. CU has also suspended referrals from the Chinook center, and has placed all Chinook-referred employees under paid administrative leave until background checks clear. Also, the University plans to provide counseling for any students who may feel distressed about the incident. After so many stories involving violence in schools, this latest incident has many Mines students feeling uneasy. “A lot of us know classmates who ended up attending CU. CU was a second choice for me, so it definitely hits home,” said freshman Lisa Truog.

World News in Brief

UNITED STATES - Four weeks after the terrible mine accident that trapped six men in Utah, federal officials have decided to suspend further search efforts. At this point, searchers have exhausted their options, and have found no signs of the missing men.

GREECE - Officials report that the wildfires that killed 64 people are now under control. These fires left 4,000 people homeless and has cost the country over 1.6 billion in emergency aid and firefighting efforts.

IRAQ - Over 2,000 Iraqi citizens have contracted the bacterial infection Cholera in the Northern section of the country. Five deaths have been reported, and forty-seven cases have been diagnosed as epidemic cholera.

BRAZIL - A passenger train traveling at a speed of over 60 miles per hour and carrying hundreds of commuters crashed into a slow-moving, empty train near Rio De Janeiro Thursday. The crash left over 80 passengers injured, and eight dead.

CONGO - The shooting of four mountain gorillas in Virunga National Park prompts United Nations to send a mission to the Congo. Only 700 mountain gorillas are still alive in the wild.

Rec. Center Grand Opening
Students and Staff Say It's a Hit!

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Editorials Editor

The new Colorado School of Mines Student Recreation Center had its formal Grand Opening on Friday, officially celebrating the achievement of a long-awaited goal. The newest building on campus took six years to conceive, propose, and build with the help of alumni, trustee, and student support. The SRC houses the new home of the Outdoor Recreation Center, which has moved down from Mines Park. The SRC is also home to a

variety of excellent additions to the athletic facilities of CSM. An 8-lane swimming pool and 2,500-seat Lockridge Arena provide competition venues for swimming, diving, and varsity basketball and volleyball teams. The Grand Opening ceremony, hosted by Dean of Students Harold Cheuvront and President Myles Scoggins, was attended by students, parents, alumni, and donors. Dean Cheuvront said it was "a special day for Mines." President Scoggins, who took over for John Trefny in Fall 2006, called the new SRC the "newest cam-

pus landmark," making a point that it was built entirely with private funding, using no state funds. He thanked sponsors, notably the Adolph Coors Foundation, which has its name on the new Fitness Lab, and John and Erika Lockridge, who donated the money that built Lockridge Arena. Following the ceremony, the Recreation Center was opened for tours and the first sporting event in the new arena, the Days Inn Oredigger Classic volleyball tournament. The building seemed to impress all. The new Juice Lab, which includes the old coffee cart along with some new offerings, served free smoothie samples. Memberships to the Student Recreation Center are included in student fees, and can be purchased at varying rates for CSM faculty, staff, alumni, and their spouses and children. The members' area of the Rec Center offers a Fitness Lab, locker rooms, a multi-purpose 'rec gym' with an elevated track above, and two activity rooms. Also available for use is an indoor climbing wall that is one of the best college walls in the country. Equipment can be checked out at the front desk for use.



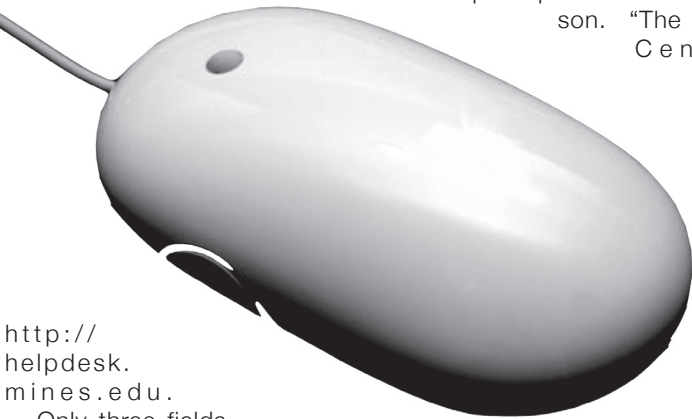
Meave Hamm / Oredigger
The new coffee and juice bar (above) and the 2-story climbing wall (right) are but a few of the offerings of the new Recreation Center at Mines.

Asking for Help
Academic Computing Launches
New Service Website

Gina Boice
CSM Academic Computing

It is sometimes confusing to know which campus office to call or to seek help from with a specific issue or problem. To reduce this confusion, the Mines Help Center was expanded this summer to cover questions and support requests of many types, including, but not limited to, computing, Trailhead, registration, financial aid, and accounting. Instead of sending email to the various support departments, just submit a request via the web form at

application, it will be forwarded to that department via e-mail. If you aren't sure which department can help you, submit a support request to the Help Center and it will be reviewed and routed to the appropriate department. Use of the Help Center, rather than e-mail, is encouraged, according to Derek Wilson, CIO and Director of AC&N. "With thousands of service and support requests coming in via e-mail each year, it is easy to lose track of some requests, or waste time addressing the same request multiple times, especially during peak periods" said Wilson. "The Help Center ap-



<http://helpdesk.mines.edu>. Only three fields are required: a subject containing a short description of the request, an e-mail address, and the details of the request. Additional information can be provided to help clarify the request but is not required. If you fill out the "Speed Routing" options, the request will automatically be routed to the office most likely to be able to help; otherwise it will be reviewed by a support consultant and routed to the appropriate office. If a question or problem is submitted to the Help Center that is best resolved by a campus department that is not actively participating in using the help center

plication helps us to track requests, document them, produce metrics, and ultimately build a better knowledge base so problems can be addressed more quickly, or avoided, in the future." He acknowledged that "it's certainly true that using the Help Center is not always as convenient as having someone right next door available to help you" but went on to say that "with support demands increasing significantly every year, we need to use the resources available to us as efficiently as possible."

Introduction to Life Insurance

A Financial Advisor Offers His Wisdom to College Students

James Larsen
Guest Columnist

Last month I had the privilege and pleasure of participating in a Professional Development seminar entitled “Cornerstones of Investing,” hosted by the Colorado School of Mines Alumni Association. In my introductory remarks, I said that I was glad to have the opportunity to talk to students about investing as I don’t think the Financial Services industry does enough to prepare young adults for the challenges and opportunities awaiting them upon graduation. In the paragraphs to follow, I aim to address in a small way that shortcoming and provide to you knowledge about products and services you will encounter throughout your careers.

I’ll begin with a personal experience I had as a senior at Mines. Back then, graduating seniors were approached by insurance salesmen seeking to sell them life insurance as they started their careers. I was approached by someone I knew and trusted, a former athletic coach from high school. The company he represented marketed specifically to graduating seniors and their product was designed to postpone premium payments until employment and a steady income were secured. Naturally, I bought a life insurance policy as it seemed the appropriate thing to do and I didn’t have to pay premiums before I had an income. I paid little attention to the details of the policy and was totally unaware of the fact that my future employer offered no-cost life insurance as part of their benefits package.

After about seven years of paying premiums, I questioned the need for this private life insurance as it seemed to duplicate the insurance provided by my employer. I asked another insurance agent who worked for the company to conduct a policy review and I will never forget his words. He said, “Son, we in the industry call this policy ‘The Golden Cadillac.’” The policy was for permanent life insurance and it contained riders for accidental death and dismember-

ment as well as disability income. If I had been self-employed, it would have been a totally appropriate product, but as it was I worked for a major corporation that provided all those benefits. I felt I had been oversold something I didn’t need by a person I trusted. In the end, I asked for a revised policy and retained only the life insurance which I ultimately let lapse years later.

I relate this story for two reasons; one, to arm you with information you may not have considered and, two, to introduce you to some of the choices

you will have as you go forward. There are essentially two types of life insurance, permanent and term. There are reasons to buy one or the other, or both. Term life insurance has been referred to as “renter’s insurance” in that the policy is in effect for a specified term and then it ends. It is also considered the purest form of insurance as it provides nothing more than a cash payment if death occurs while the policy is in force. Term life insurance is considered the lowest premium form of life insurance for a person of any given age. You may select terms of 10, 15, 20 and 30 years. The least-cost policy would be the ten year term for any given level of coverage. This is because the insurance company underwriters calculate the likelihood that you will die during the term and price it accordingly. Simply put, the longer the term the greater the chance of you dying during the term. Similarly, the older you get, the greater the chance that you will die. For this reason, the price for insurance increases with every year you age unless you lock in the price with either term or permanent insurance.

If you select a ten year term policy and reach the end of the term, you will have a choice to begin an-

other term with a new policy or you may have a policy that automatically converts to annually renewable term coverage. In either case the cost of the insurance will increase to reflect your current age and possibly your physical condition. With annually renewable term policies, the cost increases every year thereafter.

Employer supplied insurance is typically group term insurance with the benefit of the group being a stable cost to the employer, but you are only covered as long as you are employed. There are reasons to buy

term insurance separate from the group term provided by the employer. Your ability to take the insurance with you, portability, is the largest reason. You may also wish to layer the term insurance onto the employer’s coverage to cover tem-

porary needs, such as providing funds for children’s education or paying off the mortgage should you not be there to do so.

The alternative to term life insurance is permanent life insurance. This insurance, while initially more expensive than term life per \$1000 of death benefit coverage, can also provide a pool of financial value that has tax-deferred growth potential over time. **Whole Life** insurance is a form of permanent cash value life insurance. A whole life policy has a stated value, a lifetime term and often a level payment. The premium pays for the insurance, the expenses of the policy and contributes to a policy reserve that builds the cash value. At maturity, usually age 100 or 120, the cash value equals the death benefit so that the policy is, in effect, a decreasing term life policy with a savings account. If you should die before maturity, your beneficiary will receive the return of your net cash value plus proceeds

from the insurance company equal to the difference between the cash value and the death benefit.

Another form of permanent insurance is **Universal Life** (UL) insurance. Introduced nearly 30 years ago, universal life combines the characteristics of term insurance with a side account that responds to changes in interest rates. Like whole life, universal life policy premiums pay for the insurance, policy expenses and contribute to the cash value. Here, the cash value is credited with interest at a specified rate and grows more quickly than in a whole life policy. I purchased a universal life policy with the intent that, at retirement, the cash value would be sufficient to pay policy premiums for a number of years and I could stop paying them myself.

A different form of universal life insurance is **Variable Universal Life** (VUL) insurance.

The difference is that the excess premium over the cost of insurance and expenses is invested in stocks, bonds or money market instruments. The policy is guaranteed to never be less than the face amount (death benefit) regardless of market performance. Both universal life and variable universal life are flexible in the amount of the death benefit and the premium payment. By investing the excess of cash over expenses, the policy has the potential to grow even more rapidly, depending on investment choices and performance. Finally, a key feature of both universal policies is that the cash value grows on a tax-deferred basis and proceeds may paid out tax-free.

This is not an exhaustive description of life insurance options. You should arm yourself with sufficient knowledge to make informed choices. My purpose for this article was to introduce you to concepts you should know. In a follow up article I will discuss the reasons for buying one form of insurance or the other, or both.

Questions for James Larsen can be submitted to oredig@mines.edu

Recipe of the Week

Sara Post
Copy Editor

Quick Creamy Pasta

Adapted from *Almost Vegetarian*, by Diana Shaw.

Time: 15 min
Serves: 1

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp salt
- 4 oz dried long pasta, like linguine or spaghetti
- 1 large egg
- 3 tbsp low-fat cottage cheese
- 1 tbsp milk
- handful of grated cheese, like parmesan, cheddar, or mozzarella
- pinch garlic powder
- Optional:**
- Fresh or dried herbs to taste, like basil, oregano, thyme, tarragon, or chives
- chickpeas (garbanzo beans)
- tomatos, fresh or sun dried
- olives, black or green
- pine nuts
- anything else you’d like

1. Prepare pasta according to package directions, *don’t overcook it!* It should be chewy, but not crunchy. Try it often to make sure.

2. While the pasta is cooking, in a large glass or ceramic bowl, combine the egg, cottage cheese, milk, cheese, garlic powder, and any of the optional ingredients you want, stirring with a wooden or plastic serving spoon.

3. Drain the pasta (carefully!)

4. To finish on the stove:
Toss the pasta back into the pot and, stirring constantly, add the egg mixture. Put it over medium low heat (your burner should have been on high to cook the pasta, make sure you turn it down) and stir until the pasta is coated with a smooth, creamy sauce.

5. To finish in the microwave:

Stir drained pasta into the egg mixture thoroughly. Place uncovered in the microwave, and cook on high for one minute. Remove and stir again. The pasta is done if it’s coated with a smooth, creamy sauce. If the sauce is still runny, put it back in the microwave and cook at 30 second intervals until done, stirring each time.

Note: You’ve all heard that microwave ovens vary in strength, so keep an eye on the pasta to make sure it doesn’t do anything crazy.

This pasta is pretty good for you if you don’t use too much cheese, which is good because you don’t really need more than a small handful. It has about 30 grams of protein and 25% percent of your recommended calcium intake, and about ten grams of fat. It’s also really easy; very easy to double, triple, or quadruple; and really fast.

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A Rambling Wreck

The Mining Engineer: Not Only at Mines

Lily Giddings
Content Manager

“A helluva engineer!” These proud words are sung by Colorado School of Mines students at sporting events, at celebrations and just when they feel like it. But did you know that CSM is not the only school for which these words have meaning?

While Mines has used “The Mining Engineer” as a fight song since the 1870’s, several other schools in the nation use altered versions of the song. Dickinson College in Pennsylvania adopted the song in the 1850’s; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute adapted the song in 1895 and called it “A Son of Old R.P.I.”; finally, Georgia Institute of Technology adopted their version in 1905 as their official fight song, titled “I’m a Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech”.

These songs all originated from “Son of a Gambolier,” which was

a popular song in the 1800’s. The original song is half an expression of grief over living in poverty, and half a ribald drinking song:

“Like every jolly fellow,
I takes my whiskey clear
For I’m a rambling rake of poverty
And the son of a gambolier.”

The fight songs are understandably a great deal more cheerful. There are similarities throughout most versions of the song: the reference to a college bell, started by Dickinson College; the reference to whiskey from the original song; and, of course: “A helluva engineer.”

Do you know the entire song? Check out the Student Activities website for the lesser-known verses!

An Anthropologist in the Library

The U. of Rochester Takes a Close Look at Students in the Stacks

Scott Carlson
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Put this story down for a moment and take a look at the undergraduates around your desk, outside your office, or out on the quad. Do you know what makes them tick? Where and how they study, the ways they spend each hour of the day, the steps they go through when writing their papers? Or are they enigmas?

Perhaps, to get some clues, you've read books about the so-called Net Generation, which brand them all as technophiles, gamers, and multitaskers. Or you might see them as younger versions of yourself during your college years — more plugged in, of course, but essentially the same. You're probably wrong.

Now consider some advice from someone who has spent the past couple of years sitting with undergraduates in dorm rooms, examining the contents of their book bags, and interviewing them at length. "If you have been making a bunch of assumptions based on out-of-date information," says Nancy Fried Foster, an anthropologist at the University of Rochester, "maybe it's time to ask some people some questions."

A few years ago, Ms. Foster was hired by Rochester's library to study undergraduates, to help shed light on how they do their research and write papers, and how they spend their days. The results of the study, which will be published in a book due out next month from the Association of College and Research Libraries, helped guide a library renovation, influenced a Web-site redesign, led to changes in the way the library markets itself to students, and, in some cases, completely changed the image of undergraduates in

the eyes of Rochester librarians.

"This has forced us all to abandon our preconceptions of what college is like now," says Susan Gibbons, an associate dean at Rochester's library who helped lead the study, which has gained some attention from institutions around the world. Other libraries, including ones as near as Syracuse University and as far away as the University of Queensland, in Australia, are considering hiring anthropologists to conduct similar studies.

When Ms. Foster, Ms. Gibbons, and other librarians set out to study undergraduates, they came up with a guiding question for their research: "What happens when a professor assigns a paper to a student?"

"It's a black box, and we wanted to look into that box," Ms. Gibbons says. "Beyond that we had no agenda."

Armed with munchies and \$5 bills as enticements, they went out to find students who would tell them about life as an undergrad.

One Size May Not Fit All

Ms. Gibbons and Ms. Foster emphasize that an anthropological study of students is neither difficult nor expensive. They did it on a shoestring — Ms. Foster's salary (which they won't divulge), plus small change to buy office supplies and cookies, chips, and soda to bribe students to participate. About a third of the library's staff members volunteered to help, and to write chapters of the book.

But there is no shortcut for other institutions; most colleges could not just apply the Rochester study's findings to their own students.

"You wouldn't want to superimpose the findings from a private, competitive, residential university like Rochester onto the student body of, say, a com-

munity college," Ms. Gibbons says.

The Rochester findings confirmed some of the researchers' assumptions about undergraduates. And they shattered others.

For example, most people believe that the Net Generation is hard-wired for technology — that they understand the latest technology intuitively, and that they are enthusiastic users of it. But the study at Rochester paints a different picture.

"There is not a big technophile-technophobe division" between students and faculty members, Ms. Foster says. "There are still significant numbers of students who are completely inept with technology."

"The literature will say that Net Generation students are multitaskers, and that they always want to be online," Ms. Gibbons adds. "But what we were seeing from some of our students is that they come to the library to unplug, to get offline. They still need time for concentration and to focus intensively on something."

Parents Hover, Students Cling

By now, most administrators in college have noticed the phenomenon of "helicopter parents," and the ubiquity of mobile communications means that students can check in with Mom or Dad at any time. But Ms. Foster, Ms. Gibbons, and the other librarians at Rochester never realized how often their students are in contact with parents until they started asking about the paper-writing process. They found that soon after getting a paper assignment, many students called their parents to ask what they should write about. And as the students were researching and writing their papers, they were checking in with their parents to talk about the paper or even asking parents to edit their work.

"We were shocked to find that out," Ms. Foster says. "One can

only assume that parents were editing their papers in high school. It wouldn't have just started now."

Before doing the study, some librarians thought that students worked late at night and up to the last minute because they were procrastinators. But the study showed that many students were compulsive overachievers, that their days were heavily scheduled, and that their only free time was late at night, when they often began their homework — and when librarians saw them coming into the building.

A segment of the study asked students to map their movements across the campus throughout a single day. One student, described as representative of his peers, began his day at 8:30 a.m. and covered 2.5 miles over the next 16 hours. He ate a prepackaged meal at 3 p.m. and dinner at 12:30 a.m. the next day.

"The expectations for themselves are very, very high — I think way too high," Ms. Gibbons says. "They have been told if you work hard, you will succeed. And they are killing themselves."

Not Simply Academic

The driving force behind the study isn't simply curiosity about undergraduates. Ms. Gibbons and Ms. Foster hope to apply what they have learned.

This is a type of consumer research, borrowed from the corporate world. Several years ago, Rochester was contemplating hiring a designer to rework some of its Web sites when David Lindahl, a computer scientist who had just arrived at Rochester's library from the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, offered a suggestion: Why not hire someone to study customers and their work environments, as Xerox had when he worked there?

At the time, there was no money within the library to hire an anthropologist, so Ms. Gibbons applied for a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Ms. Foster, who was trained at Columbia University and had done traditional anthropological work in the Brazilian rainforest, arrived at Rochester soon after that. She says she has always had an interest in applied anthropology, the process of taking the methods of anthropology and using them in consumer studies and product design, among other areas.

Her work at Rochester started with a study of faculty members and how they might use an institutional repository of scholarly work. In the process, the librarians learned things about how professors do their work, how they perceive the library, and how they might work more closely with librarians.

By the time that study ended, library administrators decided they had to hire Ms. Foster, and they made room in the library budget to bring her on.

Like Kindergarten

Some of the methods for gathering information might seem unusual, almost like projects out of elementary school. For example, students were handed big sheets

of cardboard and asked to map out the paper-writing process, drawing themselves as stick figures. Researchers also gave students cardboard, construction paper, markers, and glue, and asked them to design their ideal portable device — something that had every tool or feature they would ever need.

Other segments of the research might resemble traditional observational methods. The researchers visited dorm rooms, video cameras in hand, and recorded the ways that students worked on their computers, the things they were working on, the games they were playing, or the conversations they had online. They gave students disposable cameras and asked them to shoot pictures of the tools they use for writing assignments and the things they always carry with them. (Laptops were notably absent from those pictures — they are too cumbersome, students told the researchers.)

The study changed the way the library markets itself to students. The library was once merely a stop on the freshman-orientation tour. Now, after seeing how involved moms and dads are in homework, the library holds a breakfast for parents during orientation. "We can see from the drawings that they are so influential in the students' lives, and the students aren't ready to hear from us," Ms. Gibbons says. Parents should leave with the message that experts in the library can help students with research.

Pictures of subject specialists were added to course pages, to reinforce that message. The library Web site is also being redesigned to reflect what students want — to be able to take search boxes and elements from the library site and import them into a portal page. The library site itself "has to be that one-stop shop that has everything," Ms. Gibbons says. "It should be completely customizable."

The library needs to make other changes that will not be so easy — like synchronizing its hours with the schedules of the students. The library reference desk is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and the library building is open until 3 a.m. "That's not good enough," Ms. Gibbons says. "They seem to be hunkering down for some hard academic work after 9 at night. When they most need us, we aren't here." But how to deal with that problem isn't easy — no librarians have volunteered to staff the reference desk into the wee hours of the morning.

In fact, the study also showed that students did not really want your average reference desk. "They want this generic staff person who could check out a book, answer a question, fix a computer, and brew a really good latte," Ms. Gibbons says. "We didn't know what to do with that."

I Have an RTD Bus Pass.

Now What?

You need to take advantage of it. Here are the best routes leaving from the RTD stop on Ford & 13th....

Route: 16
 Highlights: Downtown Denver
 Best time: Saturday.

The eastbound stops every half hour starting at 8AM, until 5:30PM, and intermittently until 12:20AM. Last westbound arrives at 2AM on Sunday (make sure you're on the bus out of 21st and California by 1:10AM!)

Route: GS
 Highlights: Downtown Boulder, Pearl St Mall
 Best time: Weekdays.

The northbound stops every half hour from 5:45AM-9:15AM and 4:15AM-6:30PM. Southbound stops every half hour from 6:10AM-9:15AM and 4:15PM-6:30PM. Be aware: this route does not run weekends.

Route: 17
 Highlights: Ward Road Park 'N Ride, Red Rocks Community College
 Best time: Weekdays.

Southbound stops every half hour between 10:20AM and 2:20PM. Northbound stops every half hour between 6:45AM and 7:20PM.

Route: 16 Ltd
 Highlights: Downtown Denver, Civic Center Station
 Best time: Weekdays

Eastbound stops every half hour between 7:30AM and 12:30PM and between 1PM and 7:30PM. Westbound stops every half hour between 5:45AM and 7:45PM.

Need more information? Check out <http://www.rtd-denver.com/>



CSM Career Center

Building rock-solid career foundations

See www.DiggerNet.net for latest details and required sign-up.

Tuesday, September 4, 2007, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

JOB SEARCH: The Most Important Game You Never Learned To Play

Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

RESUMES THAT WOW THE RECRUITER!

Thursday, September 6, 2007, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

MAXIMIZE YOUR TIME AND EFFORT AT CAREER DAY!

Thursday, September 6, 2007, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

ACE THAT INTERVIEW!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

September 10 – 1:00-3:30

Attend this event in the Grand Ballroom, co-hosted by the Career Center and MEP.
Resume critiques/mock interviews by industry recruiters ... sign-up required – see DiggerNet!

Employer Information Sessions

HALLIBURTON
CHEVRON PHILLIP
TECK COMINGO
HATCH MOTT MACDONALD
AEROSPACE CORPORATION
TOTAL PETROCHEMICAL
STILLWATER MINING COMPANY

Wed, Sept. 5 12:00 - 1:30

Thur, Sept. 6 5:30 - 6:30

Thur, Sept. 6 7:00 - 8:00

Mon, Sept. 10 11:30 - 1:30

Mon, Sept. 10 5:00 - 6:00

Mon, Sept. 10 5:00 - 6:00

Mon, Sept. 10 7:00 - 8:00

SWE Evening with Industry

Monday, September, 10 5:30 – 7:30 PM

SWE MEMBERS: Put Networking Skills to good use as you meet recruiters before Career Day!

(*Not Career Center Event) You must contact Rebecca Johnson at csm.swe.vp@gmail.com to sign up.

FALL 2007 CAREER DAY

Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Both Gyms in the Student Recreation Center will be filled with employers who want to talk to YOU!

Dress business casual, bring resumes and BlasterCard to Maple Street Entrance.

SPECIAL EVENT for Soon-to-Graduate and Alumni! Hosted by CATERPILLAR

SALARY NEGOTIATIONS AND MORE

Nationally-known career specialist, Don Asher, shares his words of wisdom.

Thursday, September 13, 2007, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

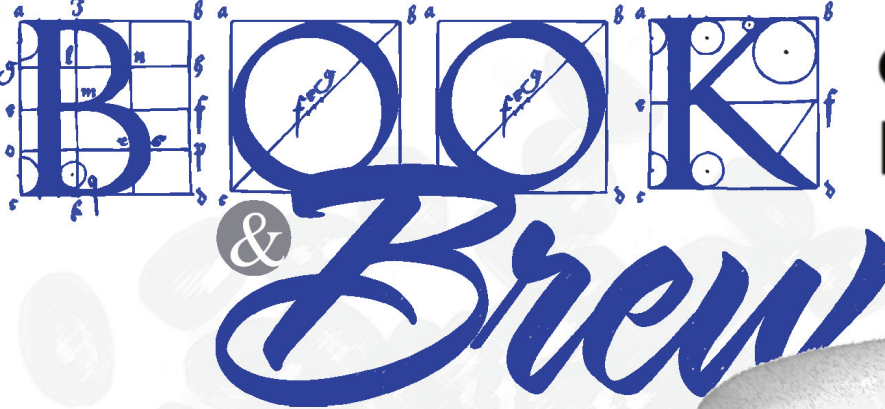
SPECIAL EVENT for Freshmen and Others !! Hosted by CATERPILLAR

BUILDING CAREER READINESS FROM FRESHMAN YEAR

CSM101 Required Attendance

If you are early in the game of career plans, THIS is the Asher workshop for you!

Thursday, September 13, 2007, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM



at Arthur Lakes Library

- Poudly Serving Allegro Coffee & Tea
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- Hormone-Free Milk
- Check Library Website for Current Hours



...Get Your Coffee On

LAIS Ramps Up New Communications Center Opens

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

On a campus known for a rigorous science, math, and engineering curriculum, it is almost surprising that Colorado School of Mines also has a comprehensive center to help improve the writing and speaking abilities of students. The LAIS Writing Center has a complete staff of faculty instructors, including three newcomers to the Mines community: Laura Stengrim, Mikkilynn Olmsted and Jean Cross. The staff includes a complete team of experienced consultants with varying specialties including Sue Tyburski, Laura Heller, Diane Witters, Cortney Holles, and Writing Center Coordinator Rose Pass.

The center is equipped to provide individual counseling for Mines students working on anything from lab reports, dissertations and presentations to resumes and scholarship applications at any stage of the writing process.

"We can help you prepare any document more effectively. Our mission is to help you become a better writer," said Rose Pass.

In each session, student writers meet with a faculty consultant. Actually, the staff does not copy edit student papers, instead preferring to facilitate the writer's ability to convey ideas appropriate to the given audience and purpose. The faculty emphasizes that the mission of the center is to teach writers to identify their personal writing blocks, brainstorm fresh ideas and eventually gain the confidence to independently create comprehensive papers.

"Our mission is to help you become a better writer." -

Rose Pass

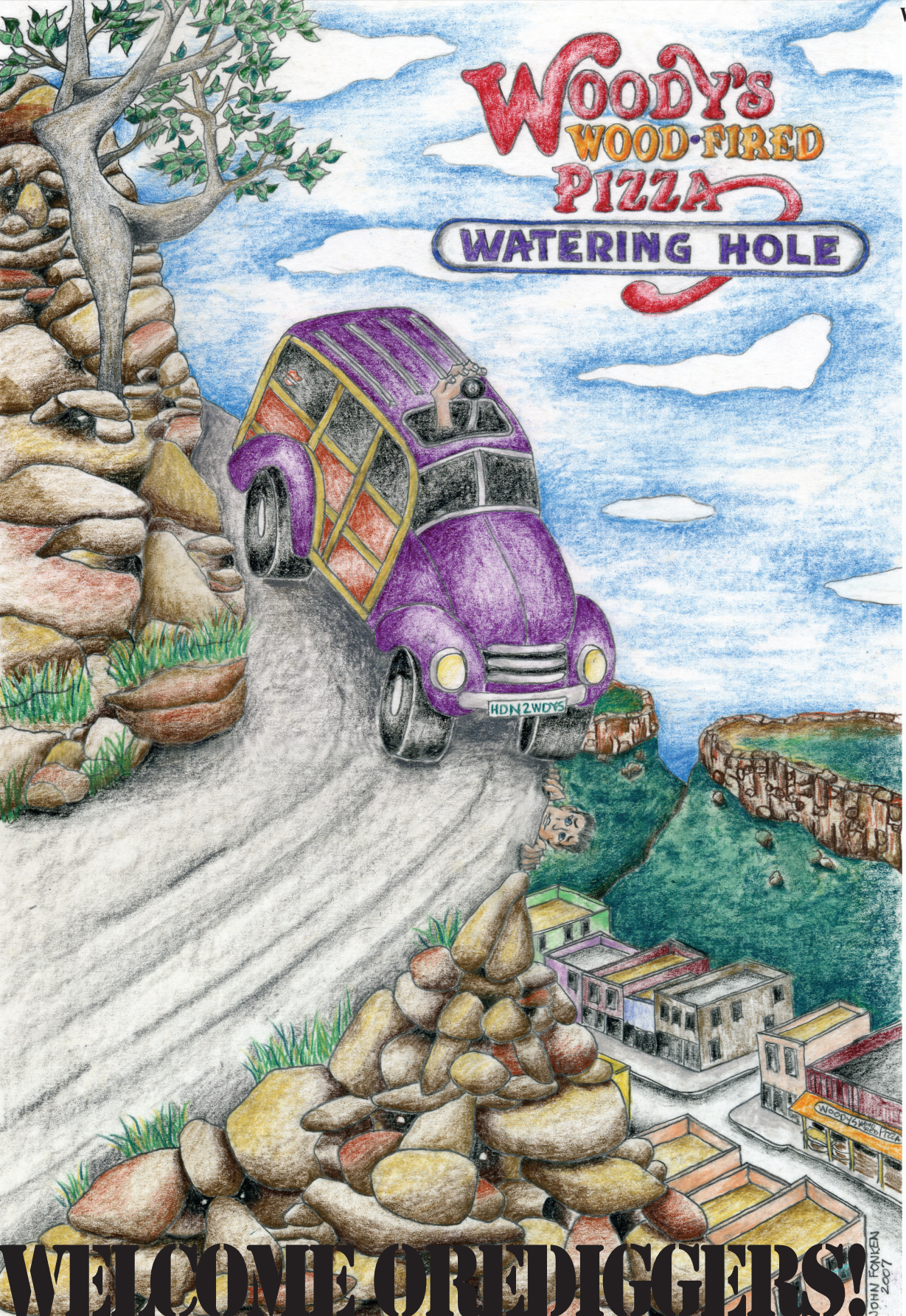
Aside from getting feedback about written work, students can practice presentations and hear advice on improving public speaking skills. The Campus Writing Program in LAIS has opened a new Communications Center aimed at mentoring students with professional oral presentations. Professor Susan Tyburski will be working with students every Monday from 5 to 7 pm. With experience as both an attorney and a full-time LAIS professor, Tyburski has a strong background in oral communications. She is available to students by appointment and can be contacted at stybursk@mines.edu.

LAIS is also seeking funding to provide the new Communications Center with "state of the art technology" to better assist students with multimedia presentations, and eventually to assist with campus needs in written, oral, and visual communications.

A new initiative of the Campus Writing Program in LAIS reaches out to international students coping with the difficult task of writing and speaking in a foreign language. "We're hoping that some of the offerings at our Writing Center and new Communications Center will help us continue to serve this unique population," said ESL specialist and International Conversation Group facilitator Diane Witters.

Located in Stratton Hall 311, the LAIS Writing Center opened on August 27th. It provides writing help Monday through Friday. For hours and to schedule an appointment, simply call 303-273-3085 and leave your name, contact number, and request a time during their open hours. For more information, go to the Writing Center webpage at <http://www.mines.edu/academic/lais/wc/mission2.htm>.

As Writing Center Consultant Jean Cross put it, "Writing is a complex and risk-taking activity, but it doesn't have to be filled with agony and angst. Good writing begs for conversation and collaboration throughout the writing process... As a consultant in the Writing Center, I hope each writer who walks through the door gains the support, counsel, and confidence needed to improve writing skills and increase the enjoyment and satisfaction in writing."



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Please visit us on Tuesday, September 11th at the Fall 2007 Career Day.

See it

How far a career with Shell could take you

Achieving more together

Duke Lacrosse: The True Story

Mike Stone
Content Manager

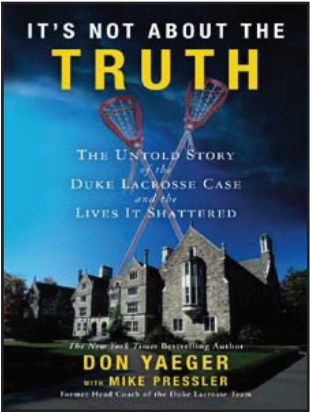
It's Not about the Truth by Don Yeager with Mike Pressler is one of the most stirring, disturbing, and insightful books I have ever read. Based on the Duke Lacrosse "alleged rape" case last year, this book tells all and reveals the horrors inside the human spirit.

With relentless rage I read, trying to see what would happen in this Hollywood story. Three young boys were the center of a huge media and public debate where the outcome could mean thirty years of jail time for crimes they did not commit. Unfortunately, it wasn't a story from Hollywood. It was based in Durham, North Carolina where privilege, race, sex and money are all-too scary subjects now.

What you might remember from CNN, Fox and ESPN in late March, 2006 were tales of "gang rape" by the entire Duke Lacrosse team. Later, there were stories of a young African-American woman, pushed onto the wrong tracks by a disparaging society, with no way out. Finally, months later, the news channels told stories of "fabrication," "deceit" and "lies." That is exactly what happened.

This book tells the story of how a rogue DA, a tainted police force, an image-conscious university, and a media "frenzy" can ruin lives.

If you want to hear the story, it goes like this recipe: Pour a varsity lacrosse team, strippers and alcohol into a house. Stir lightly. Heat with a national media force. Add Mike Nifong, a DA drunk with power, who pushes the case past the limits after DNA tests proved all were innocent. Finally, splash on protesters on player's lawns, professors publicly denouncing the team before the verdict, and an administration ready to cut and run. This was not a recipe for truth and justice.



Courtesy Mike Stone
Rape, Race, and Reality. The recent book details the "witchhunt" surrounding the Duke Lacrosse rape cases.

As a lacrosse player, I recommend that every teammate read this book. As a member of an athletic sport, I recommend that every athletic coach and team read this book. As a member of a free society, I recommend that every person willing to look through "the fog" read this book. This happened to Duke, but could very well happen to anyone of us.

The story takes in all aspects of the case and how one lie dangerously shattered many lives forever.

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FEED YOUR HEAD

Mir_Mines_Met_News

IM Real, R U?

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

Are you looking for a good excuse to stop studying and get dirty? With the opening of the new Rec Center, Mines' students have never had so many exciting athletic opportunities.

This year students can take fun fitness classes without the obligation of PA courses, strut their stuff in intramural activities, or get competitive in club sports.

For the first time in the Mines history, students can take a variety of fitness classes with no strings attached. These classes have already started, but don't worry, you can show up anytime throughout the semester and just jump right in. Noon classes are free Monday through Friday so check them out and see if they're for you. Otherwise, you can purchase an exercise punch card for \$30 that's good for ten "any time" classes. This pass can get you into classes like super step cardio, aerobic dance, simply ballistic, killer kickboxing, and body toning boot camp.

If you're interested in learning yoga, you can buy a separate yoga punch card for \$50 that's good for 10 yoga classes. These can be purchased at the front desk in the Rec Center anytime from 8:00 am-12:30 pm and 1:30 pm-5:00 pm Monday through Friday. All classes meet in Activity room 2 and are roughly an hour long. You can find a complete schedule and description of the classes online or pick up a brochure in the Rec Center lobby.

If you live in a box and haven't already heard, the Rec Center offers endless recreational fun. So stop by and try climbing the 4000 sq. foot climbing wall, splash around during the new pool hours that are more accommodating than ever before, play some ball in the Lockridge Arena, run some laps on the indoor track, or jump on a bike and pump some iron in the fitness lab to impress the girl of your dreams. And if this semester's tuition emptied your bank account and you can't afford any equipment, you can check out pretty much anything you would want at the front desk.

This year Mines will offer over 40 intramural activities. The deadlines that are fast approaching are Ultimate Frisbee (9/4), Wiffle Ball (9/6), Disc Golf (9/6), and Indoor Soccer (9/11). So start getting your teams ready and be a part of the fun. All other sport and tournament deadlines can be found online.

Since Mines opened, the number of club sports has rapidly diminished and now only fourteen remain. Brandon Leimbach, the director of Recreational Sports, says the idea behind cutting down on club sports was to make them more competitive. It's a great opportunity for students who want to be really competitive but don't want to commit to a varsity sport.

If you're looking for more information, make sure to check out the Rec Center's website at http://www.mines.edu/stu_life/recsports/. All IM sport and tournament deadlines, information on club sports, different hours for the rock climbing wall and open swim, and general information can be found here.

CALLING ALL CYCLISTS!

THE CSM CYCLING CLUB INVITES ALL CYCLISTS (XC, DH, ROAD, BMX, ETC) TO JOIN US FOR OUR ORIENTATION MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 AT 6PM IN BALLROOM C. VISIT WWW.CSMCYCLING.COM FOR MORE INFO

Football Upset

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It would be hard for us to go do that same thing again next week against, say Ohio State or LSU or Florida," said Moore. "Because we don't have the numbers."

So Moore scheduled Division II Lenoir-Rhyne for Saturday's home opener. A sellout crowd is expected anyway in this town going bonkers over their Mountaineers.

"It's still like I'm dreaming or something because, we just beat Michigan!" Edwards said. "I'm trying to sit here and think about it, but I really can't. It's like a dream."



Meave Hamm / Oredigger
Members of the Mines football team observe from the sidelines during the Sept 1st game. Washburn defeated Mines 27-7.

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Fool's Gold

"A Miner's Worst Nightmare"

The Hookah Controversy

The Recreation Center's Tribute to Tobacco

Adam Freeland
Chief Substance Reporter

The new Recreation Center was officially unveiled last Friday and so was its new student Hookah Bar. The Aromatic Aramark Café is located on the basement level just below the main gym floor. It is open from 3pm to 2am daily and has thus far been a huge success. In its first three days of operation, the Aromatic Aramark Café racked in \$5,287 from both cash and those making use of their Blaster Bucks. Though successful, every great government project has someone who suffers: the taxpayer.

"A way for students to enjoy the [hubbly-bubbly] in a safe and regulated manner."

Two years ago, public safety banned all Hookahs from campus. After a year and a half of non-stop complaints from hookah-loving students, Public Safety proposed an on-campus hookah bar. The announcement stated, "it would be a way for students to enjoy the [hubbly-bubbly] and to do so in a safe and regulated manner."

The idea of school-sponsored tobacco use is neither new nor widely accepted. The University of Northern Alaska tried to set up a "Cigar Lounge" four years ago. The anti smoking group, TRUTH, attempted to stage a large rally at the door of the lounge. There, they would in-

form students and other customers of the dangers of tobacco. Unfortunately, they were unable to find The University of Northern Alaska.

The group TRUTH has planned a campaign against Hookahs and will be focused at the Mines campus. The catch phrase will call to students saying, "Hookahs are as safe as taking a battery acid enema." This campaign is also co-sponsored by the federal government. It is estimated to cost the average Colorado taxpayer around \$278 per year. When questioned about the future of the Aromatic Aramark Café, Dr. Kuwoto, Mine's Vice Chancellor, simply rolled his bloodshot eyes



Adam Freeland/ Oredigger
Use of Hookahs to remain illegal everywhere on campus except the AA Café.

Break In at the Oredigger

Fear and Loathing in Las Headquarters

Mike Stone
Lead Investigator

Last Friday, August 31, 2007, a masked man dressed in black broke into the Oredigger office. Items reported stolen include a large amount of Fool's Gold articles. Other, less meaningful, items include computers, iPod's, a 15th century Chinese vase, the staff of Oman Ra, the robe of Jesus, and a blue fountain pen. In an open investigation, campus police are asking any person to come forward with information. A reward of up to \$5 could be yours with an anonymous tip. How does this make students feel? "I'm shocked at the lack of respect for other people's ancient artifacts," remarked Oredigger Editor-in-Chief, Zach Aman. Copy editor Sara Post theorized; "It had to be an inside job. The locks were changed just last week." Those same locks are now digitally monitored and the code changes every 12 hours. "Oh, wait. Here's my pen," exclaimed editorials editor Andrew Aschenbrenner. Among the un-published articles of Fool's Gold were next week's Derek Morgan: The Untold Story, How to Kill a Vampire's Nephew, and Grey's Biology- A look into the BELS underworld. If you find these articles or have any information on this mysterious and grievous "breaking and entering," please visit www.oredigger.net. As a result, those stories will not be published.



Mike Stone/ Oredigger
A reconstruction of the scene shows a hammer combined with blunt force could have broke the window. The Physics department is conducting experiments to prove this theory.



Uses for the new RTD Bus Pass

- 10) Riding the bus
- 9) "Picking up" Women on Colfax Ave.
- 8) Your last sheet of toilet paper
- 7) Bartering with the homeless
- 6) A drunken teleporter
- 5) Mobile home for off-campus students
- 4) "Porta-potty"
- 3) Finding the "missing link" seated next to you
- 2) An excuse to be late to class
- 1)Taking McLovin to get liquor

Adam Freeland

Week Jokes

Did you hear about Michael Vick's new bestiality film? It's called "Balls of Furry." –Mike Stone



Courtesy www.Wikimedia.com

The Vatican introduced the first Catholic "pilgrimage airline" last week. Flight attendants stress, "In the event of a water landing, please use Jesus as a floatation device." –Mike Stone

Nicole Richie spent 82 minutes in jail last week for DUI charges. Apparently, she escaped when she found she could fit through the bars. –Mike Stone

Colorado State Employees Credit Union has a new look and a new name... Credit Union of Colorado

This isn't a buyout or merger—we're still the same great credit union with the best in financial products and personalized service. We've just changed our name to better reflect who we are and who we serve.

Colorado School of Mines faculty, staff, students, alumni and their family members are all eligible for membership. Check out some of the great benefits:

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Princeton Plasma

Ryan Nora
Guest Writer

What's a summer after a year of hard work without more of it! This summer I spent my time performing fusion plasma research at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL). I spent most of my time in the National Spherical Torus Experiment's (NSTX) control room, modeling prompt ion loss for Dr. Doug Darrow. During the first few weeks I read research papers to catch up on fusion plasmas, but by the middle of the summer I was writing code and getting results. On a typical day, I usually arrived at the lab before my mentor to summarize the work I had done the day before. I then worked for a few hours by myself before meeting with my mentor, and after the meeting I performed research on new developments until the end of the day.

If you're wondering how I landed a research position at PPPL, look no further than the internet. Diggernet is an excellent resource, but shouldn't be your only method of obtaining a summer job. Searching the internet for positions that aren't posted on Diggernet or already snagged by fellow students will give you an extra edge on the job mar-

ket. After returning from winter break, I applied to several research laboratories online and was offered a National Undergraduate Fellowship position at Princeton by the Department of Energy. Besides learning a metric ton about plasma physics and fusion in general, I also got a good chance to talk to scientists and graduate students about their daily lives. The atmosphere was great, everyone was willing to help, and everyday at lunch there were pickup games of volleyball,



Courtesy Ryan Nora
Dr. Darrow and Ryan next to the NSTX reactor.

ping pong, and soccer. Like any internship, exposure to the real world of engineering beyond academia is always a good thing, not to mention that it always looks good on your resume.

Under the Great Blue Sky

Dana Drake
Guest Writer

Mongolia has a vast frontier, both physically and developmentally. The young democracy is an interesting environment comprised of old traditions, new trends and societal remnants left over from the communist era (1924-1990). The country is twice the size of Texas and the population is 2.5 million people, so there really is a lot of open frontier.

In this open frontier there are 'highways' made of the tracks of cars escaping the city; from busy streets, taxi cabs and bustling markets. The capital is, like many cities, a mixture of old and new architecture. An 18th century Buddhist temple operates amidst the urban sprawl of high-rise apartment buildings; a Soviet Military monument looms on a hillside close by a Buddhist palace and a current university. Oh yeah, every other restaurant or shop is named for Chinggis



Courtesy Dana Drake
Statue of the famous 1924 Mongolian Revolutionary hero, Damdin Sukhbaatar. In the background is one of the many cranes that surround the Sukhbaatar Square.

Khaan, the Mongol national hero. This summer I, along with thirteen other Mines students, traveled to Mongolia. And while we were there, this contrasting mixture of time periods was the most interesting aspect for me and is what makes Mongolia --- well, Mongolia. My group and I had the opportunity to speak with a leg-

“...We had the opportunity to speak with a legislator, representatives from the World Bank and Ivanhoe Mining and even a young Buddhist monk.”

islator, representatives from the World Bank and Ivanhoe Mining and even a young Buddhist monk, to name a few. We were able to leave the city and experience the beautiful countryside in a five-day camping trip along rivers and in valleys. Fourth of July was spent a mile away from a 17th century Buddhist monastery, celebrating around a camp fire with fellow Mines' students singing songs to the Mongolian wilderness.

Under the enormous Great Blue Sky I had an adventure I will never forget. My eyes are a little bit more open and my brain a little bit more informed about what life is like in other parts of the world.

Bakersfield Oil

Kevin Duffy
Content Manager

Immense electric alternators cycled as the thousands of grasshoppers began their down stroke, surging viscous oil through the labyrinth of pipe. Here I was, standing in the middle of the Belridge Petroleum Production Complex, while only weeks before I was sitting in a lecture in Brown Hall. I thought to myself, as the mercury continued to rise, this summer will be one I never forget.

I was fortunate to spend the entirety of my summer employed as a production engineering intern with Aera Energy LLC, headquartered in Bakersfield, CA. The experience afforded me the opportunity to immerse myself in the culture of a world-class E&P (Exploration and Production) company and learn an innumerable amount of life lessons along the way. I did not just work at

“I did not just work at Aera for 3 months, I became a part of the company and the city.”

Aera for 3 months, I became a part of the company and the city. While working for Aera I had the opportunity to explore 8 separate oil fields operating on California's coast and central valley. I witnessed seemingly every part of their business from drilling operations to well completion and steam service. The things I observed were far removed from any classroom experience. What really made the experience were the great people and mentors who guided me through the process. I even had the privilege of working directly under a former Mines graduate, Michael Dixon '06. Michael was able to help me bridge the gap between going to class and going to work.

Working a full 12-week internship changed my outlook and priorities on a great many things. I am already counting down the days until next summer when I can again join the engineering work force.

Duffy's Corner

Kevin Duffy
Content Manager

Throughout the summer we have witnessed the ever-increasing fervor of the 2008 presidential campaign. The posturing and vitriol usually seen in the final stretch has not only arrived, but will continue to play out over the next 15 months. This full frontal attack illustrates the rapidity of the modern presidential election cycle in a way that has not been seen before.

Sound clips, with rehearsed interactions and pointed innuendo, constitute the modern political education of the American voter. These canned responses derive not from the candidate's intellectual position, but on the intellectual position they believe will elect them to office. It's a focus-group mentality based on the principles of group-think and Machiavelli: do what need be done to achieve ultimate power.

However, the populace expects this charade, as this "sound byte culture" is so thoroughly ingrained in the American conscience. If something is dull on TV, change the channel; if you get bored in class, listen to your i-pod. American culture, for better or worse, is rooted in the technology-driven, egocentric satisfaction that dominates social interactions.

We demand our political messages be neatly wrapped. Messages coordinate so that only the most poignant of positive outcomes reveals themselves to the idle viewer. The complex tapestry of the issue is lost on otherwise deaf ears.

Do politicians present the issues in this manner as a means to engender populace involvement, or do they actually believe in the black-and-white world view they espouse? This striking symbiotic relationship feeds on both the ignorance of the voter and the

power lust of the politicians. It is difficult to ascertain which came first, but appealing to the lowest common denominator is clearly not a new phenomenon.

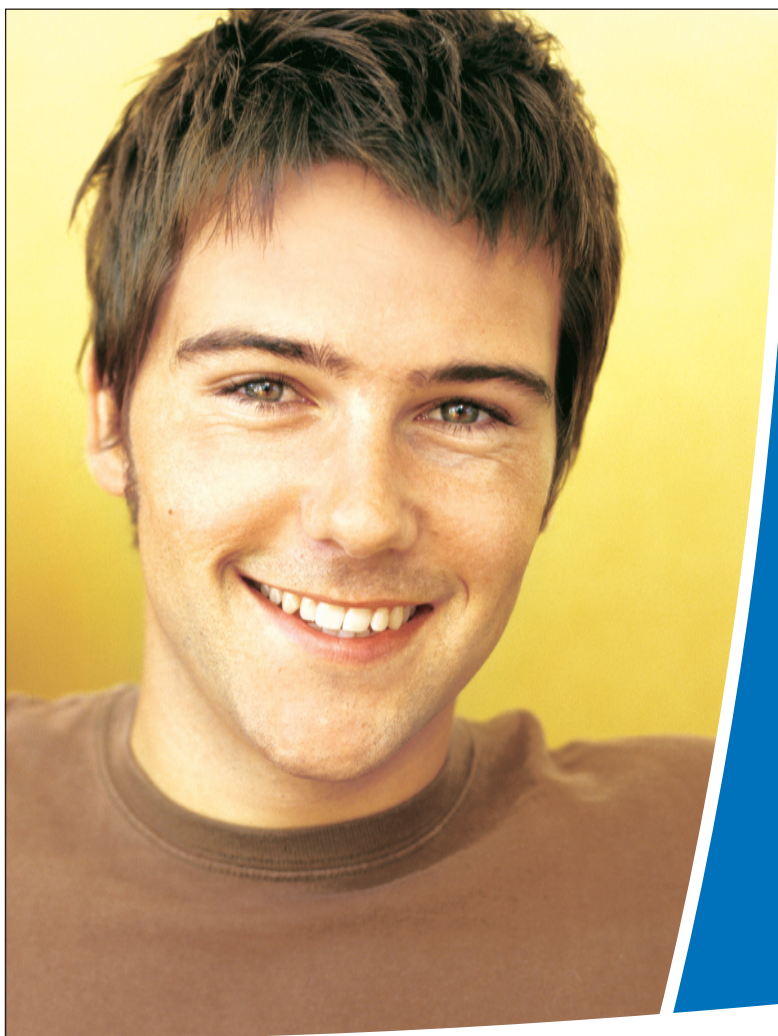
What has changed, then, since the intellectual enlightenment this country was founded upon? The founding fathers certainly attacked each other vehemently on the grounds of political ideology; nevertheless the character of the attack was based upon the totality of political progress. The change lies not in the democratic system, but in the technological influences on modern culture.

The 1960 presidential debate of Kennedy and Nixon represented a crucial turning in this confluence. Politics was no longer solely issue-based, it depended on celebrity as well. The ripple effects of televised politics are still being felt today. And yet another much more invasive technology has since permeated the political scene: the internet. The forms of communication have become as important as the communication itself, and those forms ultimately shape how we absorb information.

There are millions of Americans who reject politics altogether because they too see the insipid nature of the system. People who want to hear more than 30-second TV spots and formulated party talking points. Where is the analysis, where is the dialogue, and what does this mean for the future of the country?

The answer is not to remain on the sidelines in disgust, but demand real answers about real issues. This process is highly individualistic in that the single voter must persevere.

In the meantime, make it your obligation to evaluate the candidates not on party lines but on substance. Rule out immediately the ones you find to be full of nothing but hot air.



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